

## EDITORIAL

In the first issue of Folklore Forum, James Durham and Elliott Oring stated the purpose of the publication. To reinstate and reinforce those original aims which were in part highly responsible for the sense of life that the Forum was praised for emanating in its early years, let me reprint here those original opening statements, in part:

The Folklore Forum is designed to serve a communicatory function. Hopefully, through the Folklore Forum, students will be able to inform others of their ideas, interests, questions, suggestions, and research projects concerning folklore and the Folklore Institute at Indiana University. The Forum is not meant to be a journal for scholarly publication. Perhaps the ideas, questions, suggestions etc. should best be exchanged over a cup of coffee. The written medium, however, enables a wider range of communication than would be possible ordinarily; one that can reach the members of folklore departments in other universities.

It is expected that there will be considerable variety in the range of subject matter that will appear as well as in its method of presentations. Because of the nature of this Forum, the editing of these materials contributed must be kept to a minimum. As an organ of communication, it is important to make people aware of the total range of ideas being entertained by students of folklore rather than what the editors feel are the "good" ideas. Hopefully, much of the material presented will stimulate responses from interested parties.

The Forum now has a reputation as a journal for scholarly publication, yet we now have no medium through which we can communicate ideas, works in progress, problems, questions and suggestions, in an informal context. We are back to the same point where, six years ago, a need was felt to organize the Folklore Forum. We, representing a new regime of Forum staff members, have to strike the balance, apparently.

Most of us humorless American scholars are caught in the nasty machine of feeling unnecessarily that we must express our ideas only through the rigor (mortis) of papers, through highly formal mediums with traditions of style so weighty that they often cannot easily be handled by most of us. Our ideas are often lost, overtaxed, go essentially unexpressed because a lot of us just are not good enough paper writers yet (nor should all of us expect to be, yet). And traditions in papers often preclude writing about certain things in certain ways. So, listen--why don't you people who feel struck by the chords I'm playing send us your ideas, your comments, opinions, problems, statements of work in progress, no matter how inarticulate, or incomplete.

The vitality of the Forum is not entirely one-sided and up to the Forum staff. You must respond, or entice our responses. We want to make contact with folklore people--we need to communicate about folklore things in as many ways as possible. Papers comprise only one small medium. Remember that.

\* \* \* \* \*

Several people here at the Folklore Institute have suggested that the Forum stir up some dialogue on specific topics, such as (specifically requested)

thoughts, problems, experiences with teaching folklore to undergraduate uninitiates. Would appreciate your concerns with such pedagogy, if you don't mind.

Included in this issue is a proposal written by Helen Gilbert to suggest that a college previously lacking folklore courses consider offering some--the results were positive. The proposal can give some ideas of how to present effectively folklore to people unacquainted with it as a field of study or an item of study, as well as to suggest ways of going about creating a market for one's professional folklorist talents. We would enjoy entertaining further statements of such successes (or otherwise) in job-hunting, or at least further suggestions concerning finding or creating jobs for those with folklorist credentials.

We would like to hear from those of you involved in various folklore programs around the country. Perhaps we could dispel some of the intriguing gossips circulating about various folklore institutions and programs in the United States, especially, by some of you writing up a statement concerning the kinds of courses and research resources (archives, library holdings) offered by your folklore program, the weaknesses and benefits of the program, how other folklore programs might be able to help yours, or benefit from it.

The next regular issue of the Forum will present some interesting topics for discussion concerning archiving and its legal aspects, raised at Ellen Stekert's panel at the November 1971 American Folklore Society meetings at Washington, D. C. We would like feedback from the questions raised therein.

We still want people to send in papers for publication, but we would also like people to send in their responses to various papers published in the Forum. We would also entertain suggestions about Forum format, style, design, form, how to increase subscriptions. Jerry Cashion, Reviews Editor, has written up a guide for reviewers that is included at the back of this issue, and would like comments on it, and that you notice it. What do you people think of starting a letter section or a letter to the editors section?

Janet C. Gilmore  
One of the Editors